

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 044008

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ISRAEL: CABINET APPROVES NEGOTIATIONS

THE ISRAELI CABINET VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FEBRUARY 22 TO APPROVE PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S PROPOSAL THAT THE US AND ISRAEL EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA, EGYPT AND JORDAN ON THE TERMINATION OF A STATE OF WAR BUT AVOIDED DISCUSSIONS OF A POSSIBLE ISRAELI TERRITORIAL QUID PRO QUO SHOULD NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANY STATE ENSUE. ACCORDING TO SOME MINISTERS AND COMMENTATORS, THE NEWEST ELEMENT IN THE DECISION IS A DEPARTURE FROM THE EARLIER STAND THAT AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT WITH JORDAN SHOULD BE THE GOAL OF NEGOTIATIONS. (UNCLASSIFIED) TEL AVIV 1317, 2/23.)

2. MRS. PERON'S SITUATION GROWS MORE TENUOUS

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AT A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT SCHEDULED FOR LATE FEBRUARY

23, TEN PERONIST LABOR, CONGRESSIONAL, AND PARTY LEADERS WERE EXPECTED TO DEMAND THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION OR AT LEAST AGREEMENT THAT SHE WILL OUST THE "PALACE GUARD." EMBASSY SOURCES ARE FATALISTIC ABOUT THE PRESENT SITUATION, AND OPINE THAT IF THE PRESIDENT REBUFFS THE ALTERNATIVES PRESENTED AT THE MEETING, ENOUGH PERONIST LABOR DEPUTIES

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AND VERTICALISTAS MIGHT FEEL OBLIGED TO SUPPORT A DECLARATION OF PRESIDENTIAL INCAPACITY. (SECRET) BUENOS AIRES 1224, 2/23.)

3. MPLA RECOGNITION FAILS TO STIR PORTUGUESE REFUGEES

EMBASSY LISBON SAYS MONDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOP RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA REGIME IN ANGOLA PRODUCED PREDICTABLE REACTION FROM PORTUGAL'S MAJOR PARTIES BUT SHOWED THAT THE ANGOLA REFUGEES HAVE YET TO DEVELOP INTO AN EFFECTIVE POLITICAL FORCE.

--THE SOCIALISTS SAY THEY ARE DETERMINED TO PROTECT PORTUGUESE INTERESTS IN THE FORMER COLONY AND CALLED FOR THE RIGHT OF REFUGEES TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

--THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS OPPOSE RECOGNITION, SAYING SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT AMOUNTS TO "NEO-COLONIALISM."

--THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS EXPRESS THE SAME ANTI-SOVIET FEELING AND USED THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO EXPRESS THEIR LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOP.

--THE COMMUNISTS REGRET THE ANNOUNCEMENT DID NOT COME SOONER.

EMBASSY COMMENT: SPORADIC AND POSSIBLY VIOLENT PROTESTS BY THE REFUGEES ARE LIKELY BUT WILL HAVE LITTLE EFFECT. THE REFUGEES NONETHELESS REMAIN A POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT ELECTORAL BLOCK; THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES' REACTIONS TO RECOGNITION ARE TAILORED WITH AN EYE TO THEIR EFFECTS ON THE REFUGEE

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GEE VOTE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 1161, 2/23.) INGERSOLL

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